



SUDAN MORNING NEWS

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U.S.- Sudan relations

- U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte stated in N'Djamena yesterday that, while Sudan's acceptance of a U.N. support package for the African Union (AU) force in Darfur was "important," many more peacekeepers were required. "In all three areas - humanitarian, security and political - the Government of Sudan is not doing what it could to ensure the proper implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement." Negroponte told journalists after visiting a camp for Sudanese refugees in eastern Chad, "There is widespread agreement that the crisis in Darfur has three main elements, humanitarian, security and political. All of these elements demand the immediate attention of the Sudanese government and international community."

Negroponte stated that Sudan and Chad should "cease supporting any armed elements, rebel or ethnic militias, that seek to destabilize its neighbor. In addition, Sudan should cease its support of the Janjaweed, while all non-signatories of the Darfur peace agreement must stop their attacks, put down their arms and come to the negotiating table."

Diplomatic sources in N'Djamena revealed that the American official has exerted extensive pressure on the Chadian government to accept international forces along the Chad-Sudan border. (*Al-Sahafa, Al-Ayaam, Al-Rai Al-Aam, et al*)

UK calls for more sanctions on Sudan

- British Prime Minister Tony Blair stated yesterday that sanctions should be imposed on Sudan if it refuses the deployment of a U.N. peacekeeping force in Darfur. Blair warned that Sudan would face action from the Security Council if it blocked the peacekeepers' deployment.

Blair added, "It is clear that the only thing that will make the Sudanese government understand its responsibilities is pressure. We must be prepared, and so should the United Nations Security Council, if they do not agree to the U.N. package, to pass a strong resolution with sanctions in respect to the Sudanese government."

Meanwhile, Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi stated after his meeting with President Al-Bashir that sanctions on Sudan would hurt Sudan's population: "What the international community should do is to engage in talks." (*Al-Rai Al-Aam, Al-Ayaam, et al*)

Saudi Foreign Minister arrives Khartoum

- Saudi Foreign Minister Saudi Al-Faisal arrived Khartoum yesterday on a short, unexpected visit. Al-Faisal delivered a message from King Abdullah to President Al-Bashir regarding the Saudi mediation to resolve controversy between Sudan and the UN over the UN heavy support package. (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)

Demonstrations in Northern State

- Thousands demonstrated yesterday in the region of Kajbar due to the intended construction of a dam in Northern Sudan. (*Al-Ayaam*)

Quote of the Day

"Eighty percent of the Naivasha agreement has been implemented." – Presidential Adviser Mansour Khalid.

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